IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 1, as follows:

The present invention provides another method for producing reduced iron. This method includes a feedstock-feeding step of feeding a feedstock containing a carbonaceous reductant and an iron oxide-containing material into a rotary hearth furnace, a heating/reducing step of heating the feedstock to reduce iron oxide contained in the feedstock into reduced iron, a melting step of melting the reduced iron, a cooling step of cooling the molten reduced iron, and a discharging step of discharging the cooled reduced iron, these steps being performed in that order in the direction that a hearth is moved. The furnace includes flow rate-controlling partitions, arranged therein, for controlling the flow of furnace gas and the pressure of the furnace gas in the melting ecoling step is maintained higher than that of the furnace gas in other steps using the flow rate-controlling partitions.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 5, as follows:

According to the present invention, in order to produce reduced iron by reducing and melting a carbonaceous reductant (hereinafter referred to as a carbonaceous material in some cases) such as coke or coal and a feedstock containing an iron oxide-containing substance (hereinafter referred to as iron ore or the like in some cases) such as iron ore, iron oxide, or a partially reduced product thereof, furnace gas flowing in a cooling step is allowed to flow in the direction of the movement of a hearth by providing flow rate-controlling partitions for controlling the flow of the furnace gas in a furnace and oxidizing reducing gas is therefore prevented from flowing from a discharging step to the cooling step, whereby reduced iron with a high degree of reduction can be efficiently obtained with high reproducibility. In particular, the flow rate of the furnace gas flowing in the steps is controlled with the flow rate-controlling partitions that can control the flow of the furnace gas, whereby the direction

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that the furnace gas flows is varied. Positions at which the flow rate-controlling partitions are placed are not particularly limited and the flow rate-controlling partitions are preferably placed in such areas that the furnace gas flowing in the cooling step can be allowed to flow in the direction that the hearth is moved.